

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the claims:

1 (Currently amended): A method for the ~~prevention or~~ treatment of a neurodegenerative condition comprising administering peripherally to a mammal an effective non-toxic amount of EPO for the protection of an excitable tissue.

2 (Previously amended): The method of Claim 1 wherein said condition is the result of neurodegenerative disease.

3 (Original): The method of Claim 1 wherein said excitable tissue is central nervous system tissue or peripheral nervous system tissue.

4 (Original): The method of Claim 1 wherein said administration comprises oral, topical, intraluminal or by inhalation or parenteral administration.

5 (Original): The method of Claim 4 wherein said parenteral administration is intravenous, intraarterial, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, submucosal or intradermal.

6 (Original): The method of Claim 1 wherein said administration is acute or chronic.

8 (Original): The method of Claim 1 wherein said EPO is administered at a dose greater than the dose necessary to maximally stimulate erythropoiesis.

9 (Previously amended): The method of Claim 1 wherein said EPO is a recombinant form thereof.

10 (New): The method of Claim 1, wherein the amount of EPO is administered prior to a medical or surgical procedure.

11 (New): The method of Claim 10, wherein the EPO is administered at least one time 4 hours to 24 hours prior to the medical or surgical procedure.

12 (New): The method of Claim 10, wherein the medical procedure is labor or childbirth.

13 (New): The method of Claim 10, wherein the surgical procedure is tumor resection, aneurysm repair, or a coronary artery bypass procedure.